and toes in *T. maritima*, as also the base of the mandibles, being of a yellowish clay colour, while the same parts in *T. gracilis*, as in *T. alpina*, are black.

The discovery of this new species of Sandpiper will be as gratifying to ornithologists as it was unexpected, and I feel much indebted to Professor Baird for having afforded me an opportunity of bringing it to their notice. Although it has only been met with hitherto upon St. Paul's Island, Alaska, there is no reason to suppose that it has a very restricted range. On the contrary, being capable, like all its congeners, of powerful flight, I should at least expect to hear of it on the mainland on both sides of Behring Sea, and probably as far northward as the Arctic Circle.

Moreover, it is not unlikely that on the west coast of North America it may have been mistaken for *Tringa alpina*, var. *americana*, Cassin. It should be observed that in comparing the dimensions of the species above named, I have preferred to take an average specimen of *T. alpina* without reference to locality (it happens to have been obtained in England), rather than select, as I might have done, an American example, which would only differ in having the bill equal to, or slightly longer than, that of *T. gracilis*; for this long-billed variety, as I have before pointed out (P. Z. S. 1871, p. 115), is not confined to the American continent.

PS. (June 20, 1874).—Since the foregoing remarks were written, I have been in correspondence with Dr. Elliott Coues on the subject of a *Tringa* recently described by him as *Tringa ptilocnemis* in an "Appendix" to Mr. H. W. Elliott's 'Report on the Prybilov Islands.' This "Appendix" I have not yet seen, although Dr. Coues has most kindly forwarded proof-sheets of the body of the work; but I have no doubt, from his letters to me on the subject, that his bird is the species now under notice.

Dr. Coues informs me that the work referred to, although dated 1873, was not actually published until either January or February of the present year.—J. E. H.

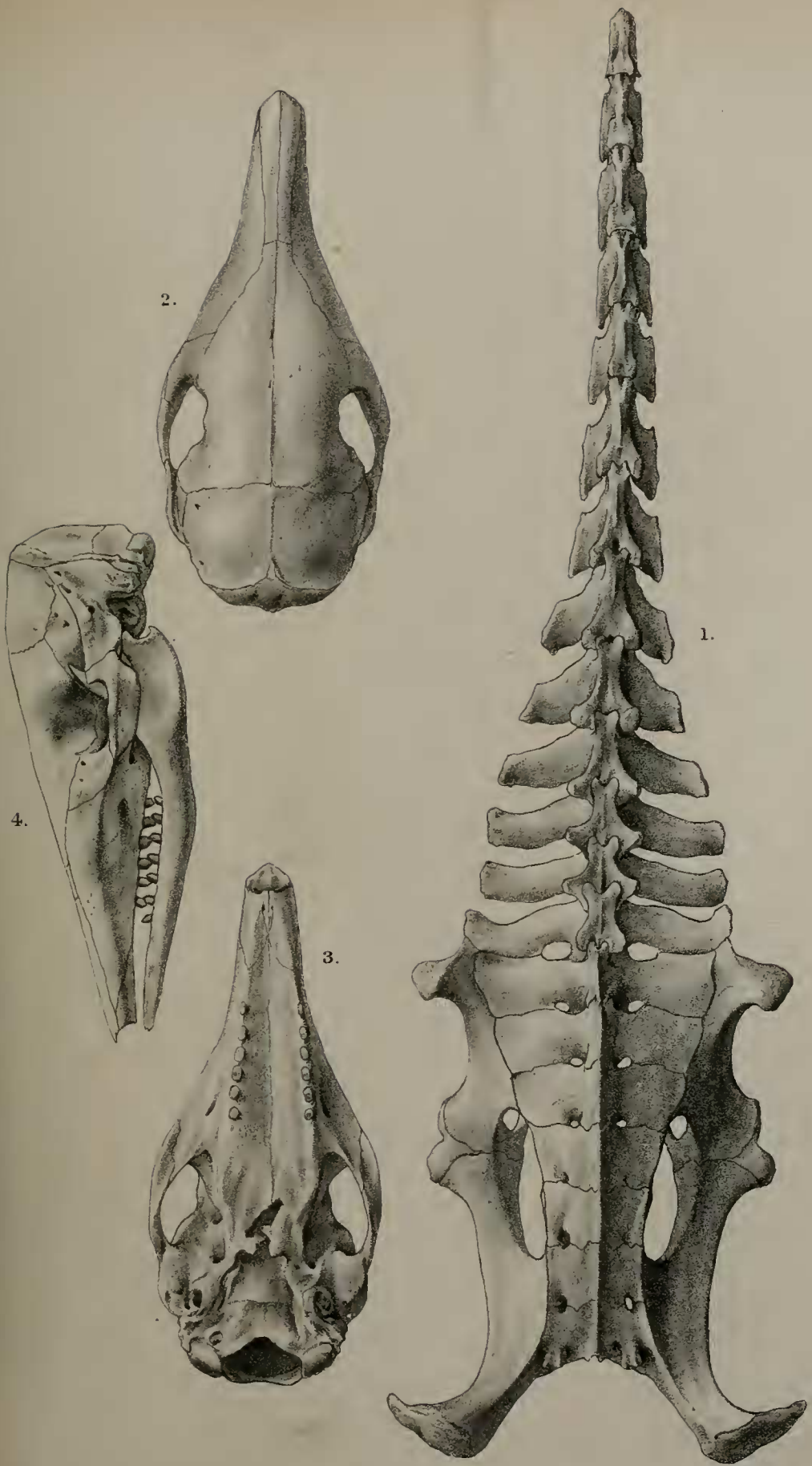
7. On the Short-tailed Armadillo (*Muletia septemcincta*). By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S. &c.

[Received March 12, 1874.]

(Plate XLI.)

The British Museum has received a skeleton, frontal and dorsal disk, and tail of the Short-tailed Armadillo, made from an adult specimen, which I believe was alive in the Society's Gardens*.

* The specimen from which the skeleton was prepared was presented to the Society by Mrs. Mackinlay, July 18th, 1873, along with another of the same species. Other examples had previously been received from the same donor. See *Tatusia hybrida*, Revised List of Vert. p. 110.—P. L. S.



G. H. Ford.

Mintern Bros. imp.

MULETIA SEMPTEMCINCTA

NAT. SIZE.

The animal is peculiar in having only six free regular dorsal rings, and a seventh ring that is partly separated from the hinder dorsal disk on the lower part of the sides.

The tail is short, conical, thick, and depressed at the base, rather more than half the length of the dorsal disk, and composed of thirteen or fourteen rings, each consisting of two series of *tesseræ*. The ears are small and covered with very minute scales.

The skeleton agrees very much in the form of the greater number of bones with that of the *Tatou noir* (*Tatusia peba*), figured by Cuvier (Oss. Foss. v. part ii. t. x.), and differs chiefly from it in the breadth of the ribs, in the shortness of the tail, which is not two thirds of the length of the body, the shortness of the thirteen vertebræ of which it is composed, and in the great width of the lateral processes of the first six caudal vertebræ, the first of which is as broad as the sacrum; they gradually diminish in breadth as they proceed towards the end.

The tail of the *Tatou noir* (*Tatusia peba*) consists of twenty-two or twenty-three vertebræ, and has much smaller lateral processes, and is much longer than the body and head.

The skull is 2 inches 8 lines long, and 1 inch 2 lines wide at the zygomatic arch. The lachrymal bone is triangular, the lower side forming the front part of the keel of the zygomatic process. The nasal bones are slender, attenuated behind. The upper jaw has six teeth on each side, the front one slightly directed forwards; the lower jaw has seven teeth on each side, the two front ones more slender and directed forwards.

Cuvier, in his 'Ossemens Fossiles' (v. p. 118) refers to this species the Armadillo noticed by Belon (Observations, p. 467) and Aldrovandi (Quadrup. Digit. p. 489); but I much doubt their knowing a species that appears to be confined to the pampas of South America, and believe that the resemblance depends on the rudeness of old figures and descriptions.

Schreber, in his 'Säugethiere,' 1775, describes a species which he considers to be the *Dasypus septemcinctus* of Linnæus (Syst. Nat. p. 54), and he refers to a plate, t. lxxii., which is marked by mistake *D. sexcinctus*, Linn., quite different from the species which he figures under the same name in t. lxxi. B. The figure moderately well represents this species; but the body has been elongated in stuffing, and the tail is too slender at the base; but this occurs also in the specimen in the Museum.

D'Azara (Hist. Nat. Quadrup. 1801, ii. p. 186), under the name of *Tatou moulet*, says it is called *Tatou m'bouriqua*, on account of its having straight and parallel ears like a mule, but observes the ears are not so large as in the other species. M. Desmarest, who inserted it in the scientific catalogues, gave it the Latin name of *Dasypus hybridus*, I suppose as a translation of Azara's name; but why it should be called a mule or hybrid I cannot conceive, as no species can be more distinct in external appearance and anatomical characters. It cannot be a mule or hybrid between any two known species, as D'Azara justly observes.

Mr. Martin, in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1837, p. 13, on account of the unsatisfactory account of *Dasypus hybridus* (the *Tatou mulet*) given in scientific works, gave a more complete description of this species than he had previously met with, from a specimen presented to the Society by Mr. C. Darwin; and Darwin gives a good account of the habits of the animal in the 'Voyage of the Beagle,' i. p. 92.

I am inclined to form a genus for *Dasypus septemcinctus*, which may be called *Muletia*, and characterized by the short tail, depressed at its base, the small number of caudal vertebræ and caudal rings, and the small ears.

I would divide the *Tatusiidæ* thus:—

I. *Tail with smooth caudal rings. Hinder part of palat. convex, with a groove on each side, which is wider behind.*

1. Tatusia. Tail cylindrical, elongate, as long as or longer than the body, of many rings and numerous caudal vertebræ. Ears large. Dorsal disk with 9–7 free bands. *Tatusia peba* &c.

2. Muletia. Tail short, depressed at base, not so long as the body, with thirteen rings and thirteen caudal vertebræ. Ears small. Dorsal disk with six free bands. *Muletia septemcincta* &c.

II. *Tail with the hinder edge of the tesseræ of the basal caudal rings prominent. Hinder part of the palate broad, concave, with a raised edge on each side.*

3. Praopus. Tail about the length of the body, rather thick at the base. *Praopus kappleri.*

In the 'Hand-list of Edentate, Thick-skinned, and Ruminant Mammals in the British Museum,' I described seven species of *Tatusia* and one of *Praopus*, and figured the skull of each of the kinds; but at that time the collection did not contain any specimen of the Short-tailed Armadillo (*Tatusia septemcincta*) from Paraguay.

The number of teeth seems to vary in this genus; the skulls in the Museum of *T. peba* (Hand-list, t. i. f. 1), *T. leptorhinus* (t. i. f. 3), *T. mexicana* (t. ii. f. 3), and *T. boliviensis* (t. iii. f. 4) have seven teeth on each side of the upper jaw. *T. granadiana* (t. ii. f. 1), *T. brevirostris* (t. iii. f. 2), and *T. leptocephala* (t. v. f. 3) have eight teeth on each side of the upper jaw, as is also the case with *Praopus kappleri* (t. iv. f. 2 & 3).

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XLI.

Fig. 1. Vertebral column and pelvis of *Muletia septemcincta*.
2. Upper surface of skull.
3. Under surface of skull.
4. Side view of skull.